AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Canceled.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein said first member is made of a wear-resistant elastic material.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein

said first member is a plate member arranged in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said ink fountain roller and with one end face that press the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate,

said third member is a plate member arranged in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said ink fountain roller and with one end face that presses said second member by press operation of said press means, and

said second member is a thin plate member arranged between the other end face of said first member and one end face of said third member.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the thin plate member serving as said second member is made of a thin steel plate with spring properties.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein said adjustment tool adjusts said first member substantially in a direction toward a position where the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate oppose each other.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 17, further comprising

an ink fountain key supported by a lower surface of the bottom plate and with a distal end projecting toward said ink fountain roller closer than a distal end of said bottom plate, and

a projection projecting from a press surface of said first member and in contact with an upper face of the projecting distal end of said fountain key.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein

said third member has an engaging surface formed of a slant surface, and

said press means comprises an operation rod biased in a direction to become close to said ink fountain roller and with a distal end engageable with the engaging surface.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising a rotatably supported ink fountain roller, said ink fountain apparatus comprised of a bottom plate

arranged at a position close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams arranged substantially perpendicular to said bottom plate and opposing each other in a widthwise direction of said bottom plate, and an intermediate ink dam arranged between said pair of ink dams, said apparatus comprising:

~~a press member which is supported movably, which moves in one direction to press said intermediate ink dam toward an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and toward said bottom plate, and which moves in the other direction to disengage from said intermediate ink dam, thereby allowing removal of said intermediate ink dam~~

a press member which is movably supported,

wherein the press member moves in one direction to contact an engaging surface of said intermediate ink dam to press said intermediate ink dam, and moves in the other direction to disengage from said intermediate ink dam, thereby allowing removal of said intermediate ink dam, and

wherein the engaging surface of said intermediate ink dam includes an incline plane where an angle formed between an extension line thereof and said bottom plate is an acute angle, thereby pressing said intermediate ink dam toward an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and toward said bottom plate by a pressing pressure of said press member.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising

~~a support formed integrally with said intermediate ink dam and having an engaging surface,~~

a holder for supporting ~~said support~~ said intermediate ink dam to be movable in a direction to become close to and away from said ink fountain roller; and

an operating portion formed integrally with said press member and adapted to release a distal end of said press member from the engaging surface against a biasing force.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising

a support bar ~~for supporting said holder to be movable in an axial direction of said ink fountain roller~~ extending in an axial direction of said ink fountain roller; and

~~a fixing mechanism for fixing/releasing said holder to/from said support bar~~

a holder having a recess which is fitted into the support bar, thereby allowing the intermediate ink dam to move in the direction of the axis of the ink fountain roller keeping the pressing force against said fountain roller of the intermediate ink dam and bottom plate.

12. Canceled.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 17, wherein said adjustment tool comprises a first adjustment bolt (34b) moving substantially in a direction toward a position where the outer surface of ink fountain roller and said bottom plate are opposed to each other.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said adjustment tool further comprises a second adjustment bolt (34a) moving in a direction toward the periphery of said ink fountain roller and a third adjustment bolt (34c) moving in a direction toward said bottom plate.

C1 (continued)

15. (Previously Presented) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising:

a rotatably supported ink fountain roller; an ink fountain comprised of a bottom plate with one end supported close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams standing upright from said bottom plate to correspond to two ends of said ink fountain roller and arranged to oppose in an axial direction of said ink fountain roller;

at least one intermediate ink dam standing upright between said ink dams from said bottom plate, said intermediate ink dam including a first member in contact opposite to an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate, a second member in contact opposite to said first member, and a third member in contact opposite to said second member;

press means for pressing said first member through said third and second members toward the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and toward said bottom plate, wherein said press means comprises

a holder with a first through hole and adapted to support said intermediate ink dam to be movable in a direction to become close to and away from said ink fountain roller,

a rod press member supported in the first through hole to be movable in a moving direction of said intermediate ink dam and with a distal end projecting from one end of the first through hole to abut against said third member, said press member having a spring accepting portion,

a screw with a second through hole in which said press member extends and threadably engageable with the other end of the first through hole, and

a spring mounted between the spring accepting portion and said screw and adapted to bias the distal end of said press member to press said third member, said spring having a biasing force adjusted by pivot motion of said screw;

and an adjustment tool for adjusting a tight contact state of said first member with respect to at least one of the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate.

16. (Previously Presented) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising a rotatably supported ink fountain roller, said ink fountain apparatus comprised of a bottom plate arranged at a position close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams arranged substantially

perpendicular to said bottom plate and opposing each other in a widthwise direction of said bottom plate, and an intermediate ink dam arranged between said pair of ink dams, said apparatus comprising

a press member which is supported movably, which moves in one direction to press said intermediate ink dam toward an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and toward said bottom plate, and which moves in the other direction to disengage from said intermediate ink dam, thereby allowing removal of said intermediate ink dam;

a holder with a first through hole and adapted to support said intermediate ink dam to be movable in a direction to become close to and away from said ink fountain roller,

a spring accepting portion fixed to said press member,

a screw with a second through hole in which said press member supported in the first through hole to be movable in the moving direction of said intermediate ink dam extends, said screw being threadably engageable with the other end of the first through hole, and

a spring mounted between said spring accepting portion and said screw and adapted to bias a distal end of said press member projecting from one end of the first through hole so as to press said intermediate ink dam,

said spring having a biasing force adjusted by pivot motion of said screw.

17. (New) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

an adjustment tool for adjusting a tight contact state of said intermediate ink dam with respect to at least one of the outer surfaces of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate, and

wherein the intermediate ink dam comprises:

a first member in contact opposite to an outer surface of the ink fountain roller and the bottom plate;

a second member in contact opposite to the first member; and

a third member in contact opposite to the second member,

wherein the engaging surface is formed in the third member, and

wherein the adjustment tool is provided on the third member to adjust a tight contact state of the first member through the second member.

18. (New) An apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:

a surface of said first member which contacts said second member and includes a plane (39) which is substantially parallel to said bottom plate and an upright plane (40),

said second member being bent and in close contact with parallel plane (39) and upright plane (40), and

wherein said adjustment tool comprises:

a first adjustment bolt which adjusts a tight contact state of said first member with respect to the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate by pressing in the vicinity of the bent section of said second member;

a second adjustment bolt which adjusts a tight contact state of said first member with respect to the outer surface of said ink fountain roller by pressing the parallel plane (40) of said first member through said second member; and

a third adjustment bolt which adjusts a tight contact state of said first member with respect to said bottom plate by pressing the parallel plane (39) of said first member through said second member.

(Constructed)